GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2797
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
HORNS IN CAPTIVITY
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Rifles personnel have seized a huge quantity of horns and hides of a rare deer and other animals, in North East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the headless deers are openly sold in the markets in Nagaland and Manipur;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that one-horned rhinos found in Assam are also slaughtered by professional armed poachers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the professional armed poachers to save rare animals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Based on the reports received from the State Governments, two seizures (on 20-07-2007 and 09-09-2007) of wildlife articles have been made by Assam Rifles near Moreh in Manipur. The seizures consisted of antlers of Sambar and barking deer, horns of Serow, otter skins, claws & incisors of wild boar and body parts of bear.

(c) No, Sir. No such incidents have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. Details of rhinos killed by poachers in Assam during the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of rhinos killed by poachers
2005	7
2006	5
2007 (upto 28.11.2007)	16

The measures taken by Government of India against the professional armed poachers, inter alia, include the following:

1. Important species of wildlife has been included in the Schedules the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus according them legal protection.

2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.

3. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes − Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant to the State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.

4. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives. In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wildlife.

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies /Government Departments.
4. Provision for arms & ammunition, and communication facilities to field units.

5. Training to frontline staff.
6. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.